

Transcript of Book Club Girl Podcast, Season 2

Episode 5: Jenny Colgan on *The Bookshop on the Corner*

Tavia:

Welcome to the Book Club Girl podcast, where we chat about great books with awesome authors and you, our listeners get to ask the questions I'm Tavia Kowalchuk, and today we're talking about a book about books and about a bookshop and about a bookworm <laugh>. So this reminds me of another book that I read during the, like the heavy days of the pandemic, you know, like mid-2020 called *The Lost and Found Bookshop* by Susan Wiggs. This book made me feel so good. It was set in a bookshop in San Francisco that was fighting to survive against the economy, against the greater forces of customer fluctuations and book prices and all of that and mounting debt. And, um, it's a story about family love. It's a story about a woman who uproots her life and finds herself in San Francisco. It's such a good book. And one of my favorite things is that you can read this book and come away with a reading list of like another 20 books to read, because they're always recommending books throughout the novel.

Bianca:

And I'm Bianca Flores and Tavia I'm so glad you brought up *The Lost and Found Bookshop* by Susan Wiggs because I love that book so much. I just wanna live in, in like the world of that book. And it's funny, because I live in San Francisco, so I might as well live in the world of that book.

Tavia:

Oh my gosh.

Bianca:

<laugh> But in terms of books about books, which is like my favorite genre, by the way, I really loved *Eight Perfect Murders* by Peter Swanson. Um, I don't wanna say too much because it is a thriller and it is I think the best thriller out there. I love Peter. Um, I'm not going to, you know, give away too much, but the, the protagonist works in a bookstore. He owns a bookstore. So there you go. That's my connection. And I don't wanna give away too much more <laugh>.

Tavia:

Well, our listeners know a little bit about the book because we interviewed Peter about it in season one. So.

Bianca:

That's true. There you go. Go listen to that episode, everybody, if you haven't, that was fun.

Tavia:

Peter was a great guest. He was super fun. I remember how that he was just so like friendly and cuddly. Yes.

Bianca:

He's great.

Tavia:

On today's show, we'll discuss *The Bookshop on the Corner* about a book lover's journey to finding her own happily ever after. And later in the show, we'll be joined by *New York Times* bestselling author, Jenny Colgan.

Bianca:

And later in the show, after we speak with Jenny, we will be joined by Kelly and Anita from the Decorating Tips and Tricks podcasts to chat all things bookcases. I am so excited for this conversation. So please do not miss it.

Tavia:

I am totally geeking out and note my bookcase background. This is my passion here. Like if I could I'd have bookcases on every wall of my apartment.

Bianca:

Me too. And now we present to you *The Bookshop on the Corner*, abridged.

Tavia:

Nina spends her days working at a library in the city of Birmingham, England. She has a love for pairing people with the perfect book and she is remarkably good at her job. Her nights are spent cozying up with her favorite novels. This simple, quiet life gets upended when Nina is laid off and library branches across the city are shut down. Encouraged by a random life coach, she moves to a sleepy village in Scotland, buys a van and starts a mobile bookshop. Along the way she builds friendships with the locals learns how to help birth lambs, becomes an expert in purchasing books in bulk at auction, and develops a tentative relationship with two vulnerable children who live in the area. Nina also strikes up a relationship with a freight train conductor with whom she swaps books and notes via a tree that hangs over the tracks of her local rail crossing. Even though all her customers seem charmed by Nina and her book recommendations, she can't seem to break through her landlord's grouchy demeanor. Eventually Nina will need to put down her novels and open up to her own happy ever after. Bianca. Okay. You already admitted this is your favorite genre. <laugh> What did you think of *The Bookshop on the Corner*?

Bianca:

Yes. I love this book. I love exactly what you just said, books about books and this was totally in that category. I mean, just speaking about the beginning of the book, it opens with, you know, a list of the best places to read. I'm like, yeah, I love it, let me just get a book to read in all these places. <laugh> It totally inspired me to read, which was perfect because I had this book to read in my hands. Um <laugh> and in fact, we are going to link to this list in our show notes for this episode.

Tavia:

Oh my gosh. I'm so glad we're going to share that part of the book. It is really, I, I was utterly charmed from this odd introduction that I said, okay, it's going to get better from here. Like this is not going to be the best part. I had absolutely no resistance to this fantasy of buying a van and turning it into a bookshop in Scotland. Like what? I was a hundred percent now I want to fall in love with a Scot. I mean, listen, I was already there because of *Outlander*, but now like truly like --.

Bianca:

Oh me too!

Tavia:

-- Okay, where's my, where's my Scottish Highlander. Like you need to show up here in Queens, New York. <laugh>

Bianca:

I know exactly. I I've never been to Scotland and I I'm like, well, I need to get a van and I need to go to Scotland. Like what? I'm clearly not living to my fullest potential. Like, why am I not doing this? And just again, like, I felt like it was just so easy to fall into this novel because the descriptions were so immaculate, I think there's a part in the book that describes Scotland and it says it's, there's rain in the air, wind in the ground, and stars overhead. And it just paints like the perfect picture to live in. Like I want to live there.

Tavia:

<laugh> No, I truly agree. The descriptions of the countryside are divine and Nina has such resonance with it. Like she really, it really speaks to her that the, the landscape, um, yeah, also Jenny's voice as an author, even beyond the descriptive, the sort of like scenery description, parts, her voice as an author is so delightful. It's gentle and straightforward. It's funny at times. There was one part in the book where she was Nina was sort of thinking about her past boyfriends and she had dated, she was dating this sort of like bleak, negative, despairing poet. And the way that Jenny wrote about the poet was so dismissive. It was hilarious.

Bianca:

I remember that. So funny. Oh my God.

Tavia:

I loved it. I love it.

Bianca:

Like, I feel like I've dated that person in the past.

Tavia:

I mean, haven't we all at some point. Stupidly.

Bianca:

Yeah. You know, all of us readers, I'm sure we have. And anybody beyond that too,

Tavia:

You're a poet. Ooh.

Bianca:

Sadly, like, oh God, rolling my eyes now. <laugh> But on a different note, I also love that she dove into the hardships of librarians in terms of the tough job market. Tavia, I worked at a library in college. My gosh, I know I just talked about the hardships, but I have to say it was one of the most peaceful jobs I've ever had. It was just so nice. Just sitting in the quiet with surrounded by books. Like it was just so lovely.

Tavia:

So I also worked as a library. It was my very first job. I was like 12 years old or something. I was in middle school and I used to take the bus from the middle school to the elementary school and all the students would be gone and I'd go into their library and reshelve all the books that got checked back in that like dropped off that day. Right. Except I was a very bad employee because sometimes I would take naps and I wouldn't shelve anything.

Bianca:

That is so cute though. I'm just thinking of like little Tavia and on the bus going to her job.

Tavia:

Oh my gosh. It was, it was really so cute. It was really, yeah.

Bianca:

Oh my God.

Tavia:

And then the only thing I'd be like is missing from this book, which otherwise in every way is a hundred percent perfect, is: I need, need Nina's reading list. She talks about all of these books in the novel. Like I want them collated into a list. I want to take that piece of paper and go to the bookshop and be like, load me up. Bianca. Let's toast to our, um, our Scottish true love that will one day appear on our doorstep.

Bianca:

Yes. Cheers to that.

Tavia:

Cheers to him!

Bianca:

We love hearing from our listeners. You can write and review the podcast on iTunes or Stitcher or wherever you're listening to this episode. And you can also participate in conversations about great books in the lively, common section of our Instagram feed @bookclubgirl.

Tavia:

Today, we're joined by Jenny Colgan, who's book *The Bookshop on the Corner* is out now.

Bianca:

Welcome Jenny to the Book Club Girl podcast. We are so excited to have you here.

Jenny Colgan:

Oh, it's lovely to be speaking to you. Goodness.

Bianca:

<laugh> All right. So let's get things started by talking about Nina's big move to Scotland. I am totally obsessed with the way you portray the scenery of Scotland. So I heard you live in a castle there actually, which is just so incredible to me. So I've got to ask you, how did you fictionalize the Scotland that you live in?

Jenny Colgan:

Woo. Do you know? I, they didn't really need much fictionalizing. I mean, obviously there's lots of different types of writers, right. But Scotland, so there's Irvine Welsh who would write about one particularly bleak, um, side of it. And of course we're very famous for crime writers. People like Ian Rankin and Val McDermid. So, you know, so I always kind of want to kind of actually, it's not just, you know, heroin and murder. It's a very beautiful country <laugh> with very nice people. And so I that's, that's the kind of way, uh, of, of my Scotland that I like to look at small villages, um, and small communities, uh, we're a very Northern country, we're quite a cold country, the farming community. So, you know, I'm interested not just from my own country's perspective, but of how people live in small communities and obviously the positives and negatives of that experience.

Bianca:

All right. I definitely prefer the Scotland in your book than like the crime ridden Scotland.

Jenny Colgan:

And thank you for this.

Tavia:

And so does Nina Nina and, you know, she doesn't even realize it. I think how happy and how much she likes it there at first. And she, you know, I really enjoyed her character. She's someone that I could absolutely see myself being friends with. I really appreciated her obsession with all things, books. I mean, this is what makes this book, so amazing is that, um, it's just all about books. It there's books everywhere. And, but however Nina is, I'm like going back to Nina now she is timid <laugh> and I love how she comes out of her shell in Scotland. When she's in England, she's, you know, she's just holes up in the corner in her, in her apartment and reads books. But what do you think the final catalyst was for Nina for her to take the leap and start her bookstore? Like there was a series of events, but like, what's the one thing, if you had to say that was the spark that lit the match?

Jenny Colgan:

Well, I think she kind of gets, you know, just slowly backed into corner, but also, you know, we have these little vans that go around because we have a lot of isolated communities and we do have little trucks that sell books, but also your bank comes in a little truck that, that can drive around and your, your banking comes in a little van if you live far off a beaten track. Right. Um, so I kind of like to think that you, you know, that side of things really appealed as well, but I think sometimes it does. It's been interesting to me with, um, how many people have wanted to change jobs, post pandemic and, and, you know, have really thought about the careers and am I doing what I really want to be doing with my life? And I think, uh, obviously there's no, uh, pandemic in this big, but that kind of idea, it's just like, am I, is there something I could be doing that would certainly better than my life as it is? And I think we've had more time in the last couple of years than, uh, than before.

Tavia:

Yeah, she really is. She really could be a transplanted character right to today. Like she, she grapples with a lot of the same things that I think her, her, her peers,

Bianca:

I think there's also an element to bravery, you know, that, that helps me to move. Right. She, she, I think she kind of like comes out of her skin and she's like, you know, I I'm, I want to do like this big, bold, brave thing. I want to, you know, change my life. And I guess I'm mentioning that because I, I think the way you portray bravery in this book is really interesting and really, I guess, multidimensional at first glance, Nina, you know, she's the quiet unassuming friend who would rather, you know, live life through a book while Surinder is off galivanting and having the time of her life and dating these guys and, and doing all sorts of things. So I think at first glance Surinder might seem like the braver of the two, but Nina, I think eventually makes, you know, the bravest boldest choice of all uprooting her whole life to follow her dreams. So how would you say bravery is defined in their lives?

Jenny Colgan:

Well, I mean, first of all, I think, uh, society really underestimates introverts, um, a lot of the time. And there's a sense that if people aren't talking or if they aren't putting themselves out there, then they don't have anything to say, or they're not that interested. And I think that's a terrible mistake. Um, quite often people that talk a lot, don't have a lot to say, <laugh> quite often people that are very quiet, I've actually noticing everything and understanding everything that's going on. So I think there's a bit of that in it kind of, you know, introvert power, um, which is important. Uh, and then, but then the other thing, and I think getting older, um, that I realize more and more when I look back on not just my life, but the, my contemporaries' lives is doing nothing is a choice. It is also a choice. And I think sometimes people don't realize that, that you can do something or you can do nothing, but they're both deliberate actions. And what I always find interesting is quite often, when people do something, it doesn't matter what they do. I strongly believe that quite often, if you choose to do something to take a new job or to have children or to move country, it almost doesn't matter what it is. It's the effort. And the fact of doing something that takes control of your life will make you learn and make you feel better and what you do almost secondary. Whereas I've seen people who have been too scared to choose or too scared to try the new career, too scared to, to try the new job or the, the get out of the bad relationship. And then they end up where I am in my fifties and actually, you know, things have not turned out so well and anything, anything would've been a good move. So I think when you're struggling to make there a choice and

Nina makes a choice, it almost doesn't, if you're at a place where in your life, where you need to make a choice, the details of the choice are less important than your own ability to make it.

Bianca:

Wow. I feel like that was just like a little therapy session. <laugh>

Tavia:

I know.

Jenny Colgan:

<laugh>, I'd be a terrible therapist. <laugh> Read more books. <laugh>

Tavia:

Well, Nina does sort of have that moment, right? Like she, when she, she gets into it around the van and at one point he says, I'm not selling it to you. No, I can't sell it to you. Just this little, this little woman. And she gets really indignant and, and she also gets a little disgusted with herself for hesitating, right? She's like, why am I afraid of this? Like, I'm just going to do it. I'm just going to do it and sort of talks herself into it. And it was one of those, I think it's what she said. Like she decided just to do something. And that was the thing that she did.

Tavia:

You're listening to the Book Club Girl podcast, where our guest this week is Jenny Colgan, whose book *The Bookshop on the Corner* is out now. You can read more about Jenny's books at bookclubgirl.com.

Bianca:

And coming up on the Book Club Girl podcast, we ask Jenny about her affinity literary character. You don't want to miss this.

Tavia:

I bet. Yeah. It's going to be a good answer. This episode of the Book Club Girl podcast is brought to you by the Reading and Writing podcast.

Bianca:

Welcome back to the show. Each week, we bring you a fascinating new conversation with an author who's written a book we think is a great choice for book clubs to read together today. *New York Times* bestselling author Jenny Colgan is here with us answering questions about her romantic, finding yourself novel, *The Bookshop on the Corner*.

Tavia:

So, on this podcast, we have very enthusiastic listeners who avid readers like we are, and they often have questions for our guests. And so Heather, one of our listeners wants to know, "Was the bookshop in your book inspired by a bookshop in your life?" And then she adds, "There is just something magical about these places."

Jenny Colgan:

Oh, thank you, Tavia. I agree. I think there's something magical about many bookshops. The Nina's book shop on wheels was not inspired by anything other than the fact that I thought you could do it. And there upon somebody did immediately do it. There is one. And, um, there's also one on a barge in London. If you walk the canals, there's a book shop on a barge, which is awesome. And, uh, so now I'm constantly, and now there's one in Canada. So I'm constantly sent pictures of little traveling book shops that, that, that do exist. Uh, but I worked in a bookshop as my first job. And

I think there is something peculiarly beguiling about the idea that you could see someone come in and go, I know what you're gonna love and you're gonna love it. You know, that is, that's an exciting thing.

Tavia:

Totally. Totally.

Bianca:

Aw! We have another listener Krista, um, who wants to know a little bit more about this and she said, or she asked, "What research surprised you in learning about book mobiles?"

Jenny Colgan:

<laugh>

Bianca:

You're like

Jenny Colgan:

Very little in the way of book mobile study program.

Tavia:

<laugh>

Jenny Colgan:

Um, I honestly thank you, Krista for your lovely question. I honestly, you know, in my, in my book, like she has a chandelier in the van, and I probably wouldn't do that. <laugh>

Tavia:

Yeah, yeah.

Bianca:

It's true.

Jenny Colgan:

I think actually I have, uh, when we lived in, we lived in France and they're, they had a library in the van. They had a big library van and I think actually that did stay with me. And what, um, what was really surprising is you can get a lot more books in than you would think. It's the same as your bookshelves, you know, when you thing, and you think I'll just unpack this book shelf and it takes up like 157 cardboard boxes. Of, you know, it's tons and tons. You can actually fit more in. And also, you know, you think about the books in the world, right? Lots of books are kind of good. Lots of books are terrible. There's very few books that are like so awesome that you, you would want to make sure they were in every bookshop you were ever in. You know, so I like that if you had to really curate and really choose and go, I'm only going to have, you know, the best of the best. That's a nice.

Bianca:

True.

Tavia:

So I am, I guess I'm a, a little bit of I'm practical, I'm little practical. And so my favorite detail about the, the, the book mobile that Nina owns is that she straps the books in, she buckles them in for when she drives around. I was like, because when she was totally talking about, I'm like, you're going to have to secure the books. How are you going to secure the books? And until you put that detail, I was obsessing on that. Jenny, the whole book. <Laugh>

Jenny Colgan:

I've see now, I'm starting to worry that it's in America it's marketed as nonfiction in terms of how to run a van.

Tavia:

<laughs> I just go very deeply into the fantasy. I was totally there for her.

Jenny Colgan:

I'm very happy to hear that. I do you know? I'll send you the book van that's in Scotland and you can actually try to meet up with it so that we can kind of say hi and get our photograph taken. But, um, yeah, because I, now I'm, now I'm extremely interested to know how to keep the books on the wall. <laugh> I'm going to write like a technical spec.

Tavia:

Yeah, exactly, exactly. Like what, what are the, uh, the architectural drawings for the inside of that bookmobile please? <Laugh> <laugh> um, a few of our listeners have the same question, Barry, Sharon and Allison want to know if you can and share some of your personal favorite bookstores in real life. And if you have a favorite indie bookstore, what is it called and where is it located?

Jenny Colgan:

Ooh, that's a good question. I love, um, Daunt's in Marylebone High Street, which is your absolute classic. That's got a little circular stair up to the kind of mezzanine section, which it's a beautiful bookshop. And do you know, I can hang out in any books shop. Really. I love Tills in Edinburg and Tills is great, because it's a, it's a secondhand bookshop, but it's a really, really good one. You know, they, it feels like just grand. The only all their stock is in wonderful condition. It's a beautiful old green building by the Meadows, but the best bookshop in the world. And everybody knows this, by the way. It's not just me. It's the Wigtown bookshop. Wigtown is a book town and it is in Scotland. Lots of places in Scotland are quite remote and quite far away from other places. Wigtown is so remote, it's like four hours from, you know, the nearest airport it's really, really, really far away. It's right down the bottom. Uh, and it has about 16 bookshops for a population of about 19 people. And one of them is absolutely huge and you can lose yourself in it all day. You can eat in it. There's a little dining room upstairs. There's, uh, you can sleep in it. Uh, you can actually stay in it overnight. They have a bed up on top of one of the stacks. Run by a guy called Sean who's notoriously, um, opinionated <laugh> about what kinds of books and bites he likes. And it's heaven, honestly, the whole of Wigtown because it's so the way it's unbelievably untouched and glorious even by Scotland standards.

Tavia:

So we have one final question for you. Every episode we ask an author, if you could be any character from any novel, who would you be?

Jenny Colgan:

I suspect I'm probably not the first person that's going to say Thursday Next. Do you know who that is?

Tavia:

You are, you are the first person.

Jenny Colgan:

I am?! Oh my goodness. Thursday Next is she's a literary detective, uh, in the series of novels by, uh, British writer called Jasper Fforde. Uh, the first one of which is called *The Eyre Affair*, E Y R E. And she has to go in and out of novels and solve mysteries and crimes. And sometimes she's in Beatrix Potter. There's one when she's in Jane Eyre, uh, sometimes she has to go into a kind of gum hard boil thing and she kind of solves problems and she deals with Mrs. Rochester. And, um, she's brilliant. And she's kind of, she's what you would expect to, uh, you know, uh, uh, uh, kind of quite hardboiled detector to be like, but also she's in Mary Shelley and she just that's it. She goes from book to book solving things in the world of books.

Bianca:

How did I about not know about this?

Jenny Colgan:

I don't know why it's not a massive, massive deal. I love Thursday Next. Do, do, do check her out. She's fantastic.

Tavia:

This is going on my TBR list a hundred percent. Jenny. Oh my God. Thank you so much for joining us. We had so much fun talking to you and reliving the wonderful reading experience that is *The Bookshop on the Corner*. And I cannot wait to go to, is it Wigtown?

Jenny Colgan:

Wigtown.

Tavia:

Wigtown I cannot wait to go to Wigtown.

Jenny Colgan:

It's spelled Wig-town but it's pronounced Wigtin.

Bianca:

Wigtin yep.

Jenny Colgan:

There you go. So you sure that you're in the know when you head down there.

Tavia:

Exactly. We'll say it correctly. So yeah. So Bianca, you and I will have to practice how to pronounce Wigtown and then you can come on the girl's trip too, Bianca.

Bianca:

<laugh>. Oh, thank you.

Jenny Colgan:

Well, you must pop in while you're there.

Bianca:

Yeah.

Jenny Colgan:

There's no popping in from Wigtown but you know, we'll do it.

Bianca:

<laugh>

Tavia:

Excellent.

Bianca:

Thank you Jenny, for being here with us.

Jenny Colgan:

Thanks Tavia thanks Bianca.

Bianca:

Now the moment we've all been waiting for is here.

Bianca:

We are so excited to have Kelly and Anita with us today, the host of the Decorating Tips and Tricks podcast. On their show, they give practical, stylish and useful advice on decorating beautiful homes. Today, they're joining us to share some quick takeaways on decorating book nooks and more--my favorite topic. So welcome to the show Kelly and Anita.

Kelly:

Thank you so much for having us.

Anita:

Yeah we're so happy to be here and you all are so delightful.

Bianca:

Oh, thank you.

Kelly:

And I love your podcast. I've listened to all of season one. So I'm looking forward to season two. It's great.

Anita:

Yeah, it is. I enjoyed it.

Tavia:

Oh my gosh, Kelly. Thank you so much. That is some major dedication <laugh> I'm so excited. We're going to be talking about decorating book-related areas. I love my bookcases, as you can see behind me right now. But I am. I have no professional tips, so I cannot wait to hear from you guys, but I need to ask you first, are you readers? And do you love books?

Kelly:

We are readers and we do love books. And often we give crushes at well all the time we give crushes at the end of our podcast. And a lot of times they're decor, but lot of times they're also book related and we're also authors. So we are way into the book scene.

Bianca:

Hell yeah. <laugh> I love it.

Tavia:

Excellent. Excellent. Do you want to just say the name of your book for our listeners?

Kelly:

Sure. Mine is *My Soulful Home: A Year in Flowers* and it's a floral design and tips and whatnot, how to create beautiful arrangements easily at home. And Anita has two books actually. <laugh>.

Anita:

Well, I, no, I just have one book, but there's a first and second edition. So it's in the second edition now, but it's *French Accents: Farmhouse French Style for Today's Home* and it's farmhouse French style. I mean, it's really kind of an updated country, French style with more neutrals and it's a fun thing.

Bianca:

So earlier in this episode, we spoke with Jenny Colgan, the author of *The Bookshop on the Corner*. And we asked her a question that we would love to ask you to. So we asked her, what does your dream reading spot look like?

Anita:

Oh, well I think I just created it <laugh> We had an extra bedroom and I moved in my French chairs and my French settee. And then I, I got this, uh, Louis XVI kind of cream colored upholstered, uh, day bed. Because when I read, I like to put my feet up. Uh it's it's, I've got a little pine, uh, antique pine bookcase there with my books in it. And it's got a little place for me to set my, uh, cup of tea while I'm, uh, reading. And there's a view down the street, uh, where I can kind of see my neighborhood also. And it's quiet. I can shut the door. And that is that's really my dream little spot to read.

Bianca:

When you said settee, I got the chills. I was like, okay. Yeah.

Bianca:

<laugh> So nice.

Bianca:

So for our listeners who are setting up their own book nooks, what are the design must have for this type of space?

Kelly:

It's really simple and you can really do it anywhere. And Anita and I advise people and, and show them how to do this in any style home in any size home, you really just need a chair, an ottoman or a little pouf, a small side table and some good lighting. You don't even need a giant bookshelf. That's great. But you could just carry your book over and sit in your chair and you can carve that space out of, of almost any room. Usually somebody's got kind of an awkward or an abandoned corner. So slide the chair in there. If you can angle it that it's looking out a window or you've got some sort of view, that's wonderful as well, but if not, that's okay because you're going to be reading your book. As long as your chair is comfortable. Right? And you can get a really in accent chair on so many different sites right now.

And maybe that's a little bit of a pop color or an interesting fabric and then do a fun little pouf. It doesn't have to be a big Ottoman. It could just be a little thing for your two feet and you can even thrift a little side table, make it it's be so inexpensive or, and spray paint it. Or maybe one of those little thin, martini tables where you can't maybe put your book down, but you can at least put your wine glass or your tea mug or your coffee. So that's really all you need. And I would suggest an arcing lamp, or at least a standing lamp where you're going to have some illumination coming down because you don't want to be straining your eyes. A table lamp is great if the table's big enough, but sometimes that light is just not as, as nice for reading as if you're having something overhead.

Tavia:

I personally love the suggestion of a pouf rather than an ottoman, because my pet peeve when I'm reading is when someone tries to like get my attention, when they want, they want to talk to me. And if you have the ottoman in there or people feel like they can kind of like shimmy their butt on there and start talking. So you have the pouf, there's nowhere for them to go. <laugh>

Bianca:

Good point

Kelly:

No perch on a pouf. Yeah.

Tavia:

I love it. I love it. If you're in a big home and you have the availability to do like extravagant bookcases, you know, similar to what I have in my bedroom or even bigger, I'm like very interested in the technical details of this. I have seen people hang pictures on the bookcases and I just love the way that looks, but one, I don't want to give up the footage and like, do you put things behind the picture? Or like, what do you, or is it just blank? How does that actually work?

Kelly:

Well for a person like you that who has a lot of books, I would have books behind it, but somebody could cheat it, right. And maybe not have a whole collection. And perhaps you're going to put that painting or a piece of art hanging in front of, you know, books that maybe don't have the most beautiful spines or books that are maybe a long collection of something. And all the spines are very similar. So they're not particularly interesting to the eye. So you could strategically place those books there and then put the art in front of them. I love that look, it's very sort of English country going to the estate for the weekend, going, you know, for dinner or a hunt or something. And then you go into the drawing room and there's the bookcases. And that, but you know, it can all also be a modern look too, depending on the type of art that you're putting in front of it and the, the style of the bookcase. But it's a really lovely way to get the best of both worlds for a person who loves books very much, or a person who doesn't have a lot of space and has some books and also wants to display their art. It's a great way to do it. I wouldn't put the art where it's completely blocking a whole shelf, that would feel that maybe a little strange. So sort of hang it like where your bookcases are meeting. So it's just coming across maybe a third on each of the shelves. So you're still exposing that particular shelf. But I think it's a great way to you know, use both art and books at the same time.

Bianca:

Okay. That's the next bookcase dream. That's to the next one.

Kelly:

You can, you can do it right now and try command hooks. You wouldn't even have to make holes.

Tavia:

Mm-hmm <affirmative> I know, I know. I, but I don't, I don't have the books yet that I want to cover up. I have <laugh> <laugh> So once I find those one, like the, my, like the books, I only like not love then yeah. With the picture.

Kelly:

Well maybe you'll find a piece of art that you really, really love

Tavia:

Then. Yeah. Yeah.

Kelly:

You know, in the balance.

Bianca:

Kelly and Anita, that was honestly so helpful and so fun. Thank you so much for joining us today. Everybody tune into the Decorating Tips and Tricks podcast that drops on May 4th to hear us talk about our favorite books on design.

Kelly:

Well, thanks so much for having us. We had a great time and you can find us decoratingtipsandtricks.com. That's our site. You can also find us both on Instagram and Facenook. I'm my @soulfulhome on Instagram and Facebook. And my blog is My Soulful Home. And Anita can tell you where she, you can find her.

Anita:

Cedar Hill farmhouse on Instagram, Facebook everywhere.

Bianca:

Listen to the episode of their show, which dropped today, where you can listen to us chat about books, stacks, our all time favorite decor books, and more. You can subscribe to the Decorating Tips and Tricks podcast, wherever you get your podcasts.

Bianca:

That was Jenny Colgan, whose book *The Bookshop on the Corner* is out now. To find out more about *The Bookshop on the Corner* and Jenny's other popular books, head to bookclubgirl.com/podcast, where you can also find links to everything mentioned in this episode,

Bianca:

Like what you heard? Subscribe on iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, wherever you get your podcast. And while you are there, give us a rating and leave a review. Another way to help spread the word about the Book Club Girl podcast? Tell a friend, tell your cousin, tell your family, tell your neighbor. <laugh> it really helps others to find us.

Tavia:

Definitely. You know what you should do? Listen to it while you're like commuting like out in public somewhere, and like just burst in burst out laughing or like start crying or like show emotion and people will be like, what are you listening to? That must be amazing. And then you can tell them all about the podcast.

Bianca:

I'm listening to this great podcast.

Tavia:

Yeah. There's a good strategy for you. <laugh>

Bianca:

We love hearing from our listeners, email us at the girls at book club girl dotcom or post in the comments on our Instagram feed @bookclubgirl. You can also leave us a voicemail. Our number is 2 1 2 2 0 7 7 3 3 6. Your voicemail or email could very well end up being read on the show

Tavia:

Before we go. We'd like to thank Caroline Kwash of The Hangar Studios who produced today's episode, and Roscelia Ryan who engineered it.

Bianca:

Until next time I am Bianca

Bianca:

And I'm Tavia

Bianca:

Happy reading.